

Agenda Item: 7-8E

Meeting Dates: April 7 and 8, 2004

**CONSIDERATION OF A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE DIRECTOR,
OR DESIGNEE, TO SIGN AN INTERAGENCY AGREEMENT WITH THE
CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND GAME REGARDING ECOSYSTEM
RESTORATION PROGRAM FUNDS FOR SUISUN MARSH PLANNING,
DELTA REGIONAL ECOSYSTEM RESTORATION IMPLEMENTATION PLANNING,
AND PROGRAM TRACKING SUPPORT**

Summary: The proposed interagency agreement would convey \$1.5 million of Proposition 50 funds from the California Bay-Delta Authority to the California Department of Fish and Game (DFG) to support the process to transition implementation activities for the Ecosystem Restoration Program (ERP) to DFG.

Recommended Action: Staff recommends that the Authority adopt Resolution 04-04-06.

Background

The CALFED ERP has historically been implemented by the CALFED Program. With the passage of the California Bay-Delta Authority Act, the ERP identified a transition process to shift State-funded ERP implementation actions to DFG over a designated schedule, allowing DFG to prepare for its added responsibilities. The transition is scheduled to be completed in State Fiscal Year 2004-2005. In the interim, some current year funding needs to be conveyed to DFG to support the transition and critical tasks for Year 4. The proposed interagency agreement would convey \$1.5 million to DFG for these purposes.

At its August 14, 2003 meeting, the Authority adopted Resolution 03-08-56, approving the implementing agencies' Multi-Year Program Plans and Long-Term Expenditure Plans. The ERP Multi-Year Program Plan identified specific tasks to be performed by the DFG and funding sources as part of the annual expenditure plan. These tasks include preparation of baseline information, plan preparation and environmental documentation for restoration of the Suisun Marsh, development of a scientifically reviewed regional ecosystem restoration plan for the Delta Region; and development of a project tracking system to unify reporting among all ERP implementing agencies and grantees.

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The proposed interagency agreement combines multiple actions from the approved ERP Plan in one contract to increase administrative efficiency.

This agreement falls within the Blanket Contracting Freeze Exemption for Non-General Funds approved by Department of Finance on February 4, 2004.

Fiscal Information

Funding Source: Proposition 50
Term: July 1, 2003 to June 30, 2006
Total Amount: \$1.5 million

List of Attachments

Attachment 1 – Proposed Scope of Work
Resolution 04-04-06

Contact

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**INTERAGENCY AGREEMENT WITH
THE CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND GAME REGARDING ECOSYSTEM
RESTORATION PROGRAM FUNDS FOR SUISUN MARSH PLANNING, DELTA
REGIONAL ECOSYSTEM RESTORATION IMPLEMENTATION PLANNING, AND
PROGRAM TRACKING SUPPORT**

SCOPE OF WORK

1. Background

Three principle work elements or tasks were described in the Ecosystem Restoration Plan Multi-Year Program Plan (ERP Plan), Year 4 detail that identified specific tasks to be implemented by the California Department of Fish and Game (DFG). Those work elements were: 1) the Suisun Marsh Implementation Plan (SMIP); 2) the Delta Regional Ecosystem Restoration Implementation Plan; and 3) an Ecosystem Restoration Program (ERP) Integrated Database Management System. These activities represent the next phase of longer term efforts to complete regional restoration plans for the ERP and establish and maintain an effective database to track and evaluate ERP projects implemented by the various ERP implementing agencies.

The CALFED ERP has historically been implemented by the CALFED Program. With the passage of the California Bay-Delta Authority Act, the ERP identified a transition process to shift State-funded ERP implementation actions to DFG over a designated schedule, allowing DFG to prepare for its added responsibilities. The transition is scheduled to be fully complete in State Fiscal Year 2004-2005. In the interim, some current year funding needs to be conveyed to DFG to support the transition and critical tasks for Year 4. Funding for other agency participants such as the Department of Water Resources (DWR), U.S. Bureau of Reclamation (USBR), Suisun Resource Conservation District (SRCD), U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS), and NOAA Fisheries who are collaborating on completing the SMIP and Delta Regional Ecosystem Restoration Implementation Plan (DRERIP) will be sought through separate agreements with the Authority.

This Interagency Agreement has been broken down into three tasks correlating to the three principle work elements:

2. General Statement of Work and Deliverables

Task 1: Suisun Marsh Implementation Plan (SMIP)

Consistent with CALFED Program's *Framework for Action* which describes a regional approach to ecosystem and water management issues, DFG's Central Valley Bay-Delta Branch staff is participating in a comprehensive and collaborative effort to prepare the SMIP for the Suisun Marsh Ecological Management Zone. Preparation of the SMIP is a collaborative effort among agencies that include DWR, USBR, USFWS, NOAA Fisheries, (SRCD), and the Authority and its ERP and Levee Programs.

The SMIP will describe actions to preserve and enhance managed seasonal wetlands, carry out a comprehensive levee program, and protect ecosystem and drinking water quality, while restoring habitat for tidal marsh dependent sensitive species. The SMIP will present strategies to resolve permitting issues related to past and ongoing maintenance and management activities of SRCD and DFG and private wetland managers, identify strategies to resolve issues related to Suisun Marsh management, present the scientific foundation for restoration and other actions, and provide guidance for ecosystem restoration. The SMIP will represent the regional plan envisioned by the Suisun Marsh Charter that balances implementation of the CALFED Program, Suisun Marsh Preservation Agreement, and other management and restoration programs within the Suisun Marsh in a manner responsive to the concerns of stakeholders and based upon voluntary participation by private land owners. The SMIP will be periodically updated and refined based on adaptive management principles, new scientific knowledge, project and ecosystem monitoring, and implementation progress.

DFG will serve as the State CEQA lead for the environmental documentation for the Implementation Plan. DFG will act as contract manager for the consultant support needed for preparing the plan and completing the necessary NEPA and CEQA documentation. DFG staff will also attend and fully participate in planning workshops to define the content of Goals and Objectives, Purpose & Needs, and Project or Plan alternatives. They will assist in conducting impact analysis and preparation of the public draft programmatic EIS/EIR.

Deliverables

- A scoping report will be submitted by April 2004, describing input obtained from Public Scoping Meetings
- Complete development of preliminary alternatives by summer 2004
- Preparation of preliminary impact assessment methodology
- Draft Suisun Marsh Implementation Plan
- Support for Suisun Marsh Principals' meetings, facilitation, and meeting summaries
- Develop and support implementation of a public outreach and involvement strategy

- Support implementation of Science Integration Strategy
- Quarterly and annual reports

Task 2: Delta Regional Ecosystem Restoration Implementation Plan

The Delta Regional Ecosystem Restoration Implementation Plan (DRERIP) is the first of four regional plans for implementing the CALFED Program's ERP element. It will articulate the scientific rationale and level of certainty and uncertainty associated with ERP actions described for the Delta, thereby establishing a more rigorous planning foundation for integration with overall CALFED Program regional planning. It will also refine existing Delta specific restoration actions and provide Delta specific implementation guidance, program tracking, performance evaluation and adaptive management feedback.

Preparation of the DRERIP is a collaborative effort involving the ERP implementing agencies which consist of DFG; NOAA Fisheries; USFWS; as well as the Authority's ERP staff, Science Program and ERP Science Board.

The DRERIP will contain seven chapters as well as associated appendices. The first four chapters will provide background information regarding the planning foundation; the use of adaptive management; the baseline, existing conditions and trends for a number of resource areas; and a list of ecosystem restoration projects in the Delta that have been undertaken by the Authority as well as by other entities.

The DFG Wildlife Habitat and Data Analysis Branch (WHDAB) will prepare a vegetation classification and map of the Delta region for use in conjunction with the DRERIP. The data will be used to create and validate a detailed vegetation classification in which quantitative data will be used to describe the vegetation and will establish a baseline metric for measuring the effect of certain ecosystem restoration actions.

Chapter 5 will present the scientific foundation for ecosystem restoration in the Delta. Existing ERP actions will be sorted into the categories of ecosystem processes, habitats and stressors, and then will be evaluated by Action Teams. Some of the Action Teams will include DFG staff that has been identified as species and technical experts.

Chapter 6 will address the avenues that are available for implementation. A process for establishing priorities will be presented as part of this chapter and the ERP actions will be prioritized accordingly.

Chapter 7 will provide detail regarding the monitoring and assessment that will take place in order to evaluate the ERP actions and refine them as needed over time, in an adaptive management framework.

Preparation of Chapters 5, 6, and 7 will also require support from members of the ERP Science Board.

Deliverables

- Draft Delta Regional Ecosystem Restoration Implementation Plan
- Completion of a peer reviewed vegetation classification approach for the Delta
- A comprehensive vegetation map of the Delta.
- Construction and upkeep of a DRERIP web site in support of the Action Vetting process and Science integration and outreach.
- Quarterly and annual reports

Task 3: Ecosystem Restoration Program Integrated Data Base Management System

DFG staff, working with staff from the Authority, USFWS, and NOAA Fisheries. have identified common fields and structure for a shared database to be kept on DFG SQL servers providing remote, password protected data entry to authorized individuals who manage, monitor, and otherwise track projects funded by the ERP and implementing agencies. Consultants will populate the shared database with information on previously funded projects and on current and future projects. The structure of this shared database will, for the first time, link projects conducted by the USFWS, NOAA Fisheries, the Authority and the DFG. It may also prove suitable to link other projects conducted by other agencies and programs so that all restoration activities in a geographic area or tributary reach can be accessed. While designed to meet the tracking needs of the Authority ERP first, it also will contain those projects that may meet criteria of Category A and B projects. The shared database will contain all necessary information for contract tracking and additionally contain fields that allow performance success and assessment measures to be recorded. Summary reports and queries can then be generated to provide information on program progress and status useful to program managers, members of the legislature, and to the public. This access and information will be controlled appropriate to the use and user, and the integrity of the database shall remain intact.

Deliverables

- Completion of a searchable, integrated ERP database
- Establishment of user interface system to enter data and complete searches
- Preliminary project tracking/milestone evaluation system
- Preliminary contract tracking and performance assessment system
- Quarterly and annual reports

**CALIFORNIA BAY-DELTA AUTHORITY
RESOLUTION 04-04-06**

**AUTHORIZING THE DIRECTOR, OR DESIGNEE, TO SIGN AN INTERAGENCY
AGREEMENT WITH THE CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND GAME
REGARDING ECOSYSTEM RESTORATION PROGRAM FUNDS FOR
SUISUN MARSH PLANNING, DELTA REGIONAL ECOSYSTEM RESTORATION
IMPLEMENTATION PLANNING, AND PROGRAM TRACKING SUPPORT**

WHEREAS, with the passage of the California Bay-Delta Authority Act 2003, the Ecosystem Restoration Program (ERP) identified a transition process to shift State-funded ERP implementation actions to the California Department of Fish and Game (DFG) over a designated schedule, which is scheduled to be fully complete in State Fiscal Year 2004-2005; and

WHEREAS, The ERP Multi-Year Program Plan approved by the Authority at its August 2003 meeting, identified specific tasks to be performed by the DFG and funding sources as part of the annual expenditure plan; and

WHEREAS, the proposed interagency agreement would convey \$1.5 million of Proposition 50 funds from the Authority to DFG to support the ERP transition process, combining multiple actions from the approved ERP Plan in one contract document to increase administrative efficiency;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the California Bay-Delta Authority authorizes the Director, or designee, to execute an interagency agreement with DFG regarding ERP funds for Suisun Marsh Planning, Delta Regional Ecosystem Restoration Implementation Planning and integrated program tracking support, as generally described in the attached scope of work, for an amount not to exceed \$1.5 million, subject to appropriation of adequate funds and contract freeze exemption.

CERTIFICATION

The undersigned Assistant to the California Bay-Delta Authority does hereby certify that the foregoing is a full, true, and correct copy of a resolution duly and regularly adopted at a meeting of the Authority held on April 7 and 8, 2004.

Dated: _____

Heidi Rooks
Assistant to the California Bay-Delta Authority